

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11

EA-11 FRB-03 INR-11 IO-14 NEA-14 NSAE-00 RSC-01

OPIC-12 SP-03 TRSE-00 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 SWF-02

OMB-01 DRC-01 TAR-02 AGR-20 /163 W

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R 151822Z JUL 74

FM USMISSION OECD PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASH DC 3287

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 OECD PARIS 17229

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EIND, OECD

SUBJECT: MEETING OF THE AD HOC WORKING PARTY ON THE
FOOTWEAR AND LEATHER RELATED INDUSTRIES, JUNE 27-28,
1974

REF: USOECD 24650-19 SEP 73, USOECD 31736-12 DEC 73,
STATE A-7870-15 SEP 73

PASS COMMERCE FOR BODNER AND O'DAY

1. SUMMARY. WP AGREED ON TENTATIVE OUTLINE FOR FINAL
REPORT OF STUDY. IT REVIEWED EARLY DRAFTS SEVERAL
SECTIONS OF REPORT AND AGREED TO SEEK ADDITIONAL
INFORMATION FROM RESPONDENTS ON SOME POINTS OF STUDY.
WP INSTRUCTED SECRETARIAT TO URGE REPLIES FROM COUNTRIES
WHICH HAVE NOT YET RESPONDED TO QUESTIONNAIRE.
SECRETARIAT ASKED TO REPORT PROGRESS TO INDUSTRY
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN IMMEDIATELY AFTER CONCLUSION OF
MEETING AND, AT NOVEMBER MEETING OF INDUSTRY COMMITTEE,
WILL SEEK POSTPONEMENT OF DATE FOR SUBMITTING COMPLETED
REPORT. ONE-YEAR LIFE OF WP WILL NOT BE EXTENDED, BUT
ADDITIONAL MEETING WILL BE HELD, POSSIBLY IN JANUARY, TO
REVIEW REPORT COMPLETED BY SECRETARIAT. FINAL REPORT
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WILL BE READY FOR SUBMISSION TO INDUSTRY COMMITTEE AT

MARCH 1975 MEETING. END SUMMARY

2. AFTER ADOPTION OF AGENDA, SECRETARIAT REPORTED ON STATUS OF RESPONSES TO QUESTIONNAIRE. SUBMISSION NOT YET RECEIVED FROM ITALY, SPAIN, TURKEY, AUSTRIA, AND BELGIUM. SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED VARY IN QUALITY AND COVERAGE AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IS NEEDED FROM SOME COUNTRIES.

3. INASMUCH AS U.S. RESPONSE NOT RECEIVED IN TIME FOR FIRST DRAFT, WP CHAIRMAN (DEWHIRST, CANADA) ASKED U.S. REP. (ASCHER) FOR SHORT SUMMARY OF EXTENSIVE RESPONSE (A-4289), 28 MAY 74). ORAL SUMMARY RECEIVED WITH INTEREST BY WP, PARTICULARLY REFERENCE TO SURVEY OF TARIFF AND TRADE REGULATIONS ON FOOTWEAR BY OECD COUNTRIES AND MAJOR NON-OECD PRODUCERS, AND DATA ON U.S. IMPORT AND EXPORT TRADE IN FOOTWEAR WITH THESE COUNTRIES.

4. DIRECTION OF FINAL REPORT WAS PRINCIPAL TOPIC OF DISCUSSION. WP AGREED THAT REPORT WOULD NOT SEEK TO RECOMMEND GENERAL SOLUTION TO INDUSTRY PROBLEMS, BUT WOULD IDENTIFY THE PROBLEMS AND INDICATE MEASURES BEING TAKEN BY THE VARIOUS INDUSTRIES AND GOVERNMENTS TO IMPROVE CONDITIONS.

5. TENTATIVE OUTLINE OF REPORT INCLUDES (A) FACTUAL PERSPECTIVE OF INDUSTRY (TRENDS IN SUPPLY AND DEMAND, TRADE, RAW MATERIAL AVAILABILITY, PRICES; TRENDS IN STRUCTURE AND OPERATION OF INDUSTRY; THE INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENT); (B) PROBLEMS (STATE OF INDUSTRY: SIZE OF FIRMS, CAPACITY TO REACT TO CHANGING ENVIRONMENT; RAPIDLY CHANGING ENVIRONMENT: IMPORT AND EXPORT

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COMPETITION, TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS, SUBSTITUTE MATERIALS, FASHION EMPHASIS); RAW MATERIAL SUPPLY: PRICE INSTABILITY, SUPPLY UNCERTAINTY, NATURAL VS. MAN-MADE MATERIALS; (C) OPPORTUNITIES (TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGES: NEW PRODUCTION METHODS, NEW MATERIALS; FASHION: FLEXIBILITY OF FIRMS, EMPHASIS ON PRODUCT DIFFERENTIATION, INVESTMENT AND PROFITABILITY); AND (D) ADJUSTMENT PROCESSES: WHAT INDUSTRIES AND GOVERNMENTS ARE DOING.

6. SECRETARIAT MIGHT SEEK PERMISSION TO ENGAGE SERVICES OF PRIVATE CONSULTANT TO EXAMINE TECHNICAL MATTERS, SUCH AS NEWLY DEVELOPED SUBSTITUTE MATERIALS.

7. IN DISCUSSION OF COMPLETION DATE FOR REPORT, US REP INDICATED INSTRUCTION TO COMPLETE REPORT WITHIN ONE-YEAR MANDATE, BUT RECOGNIZED NEED TO OBTAIN ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

8. FOLLOWING ATTENDED WP MEETING: AUSTRALIA, CANADA, EC COMMISSION, FRANCE, GERMANY, JAPAN, PORTUGAL, SPAIN,

9. TENTATIVE TIME SCHEDULE INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING:
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(A) IMMEDIATELY AFTER MEETING, SECRETARIAT WILL REPORT PROGRESS TO INDUSTRY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND WILL CIRCULATE SPECIFIC REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION TO WP MEMBERS; (B) RESPONSES WITH ADDITIONAL INFORMATION DUE BY END SEPTEMBER; (C) AT NOVEMBER MEETING OF INDUSTRY COMMITTEE, SECRETARIAT WILL SEEK POSTPONEMENT OF DATE OF SUBMISSION FOR FINAL REPORT; (D) WP WILL MEET, POSSIBLY JANUARY, TO REVIEW REPORT COMPLETED BY SECRETARIAT CONSISTENT WITH GENERAL OUTLINE ADOPTED; AND (E) FINAL REPORT WILL BE READY FOR MEETING OF INDUSTRY COMMITTEE IN MARCH 1975.
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